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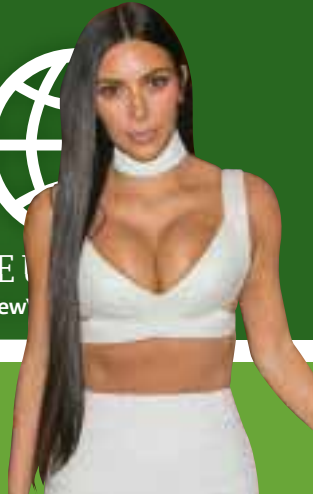


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Knicks' season
spiraling out of
control. 29-30



INSIDE JOB

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FAREWELL TO THE FINEST

Steven McDonald, paralyzed detective lauded as true peace officer, dies at 59. 2

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US JURY CONDEMNS DYLANN ROOF TO DEATH

A jury condemned white supremacist Dylann Roof to death for the hate-fueled killings of nine black parishioners at a Bible study meeting in a Charleston, South Carolina, church in 2015. The same jury last month found Roof, 22, guilty of 33 federal charges, including hate crimes resulting in death, for the shootings at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Jurors deliberated for less than



three hours. Roof stared straight ahead as the judge read through the jury's verdict findings before announcing his death sentence. Roof was unrepentant during his closing argument earlier in the day. He told jurors he felt the massacre was something he had to do and did not ask that his life be spared. **REUTERS**

CREDIT CARD OR CASH: SURCHARGE LAW DISPUTE

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday struggled over how to decide a challenge to a New York state law barring retailers from imposing surcharges on customers who make purchases with a credit card instead of cash. The eight justices seemed divided over whether the state's law is a form of speech regulation and, even if it is, whether it is an unlawful restriction.



Merchants have argued that New York's law and similar ones in other states violate retailers' rights to free speech and due process under the U.S. Constitution. The court heard a one-hour argument in an appeal filed by a group of merchants to a 2015 ruling by the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld the law. Nine other states have similar laws. **REUTERS**

WELCOME TO METRO.US!

ERIN TIERNAN, WEB PRODUCER



Family arguments over who gets to be the Scotty dog in Monopoly could be a thing of the past. Hasbro is running a contest now through Jan. 31 giving fans a chance to weigh in on which eight tokens will accompany the game. Just think, you could be a T. rex instead of a thimble! Check out the other options: metro.us/viral or metro.us/lifestyle.



PROTESTS ON THE HILL

A protester shouts, "No Trump, No KKK, No facist USA" as he is hauled out of the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearing for Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) to be the next U.S. attorney general in the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. Sessions was one of the first members of Congress to endorse and support President-elect Donald Trump, who nominated him for attorney general.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GETTY IMAGES

FIFA AGREES TO EXPAND WORLD CUP TO 48 TEAMS

Soccer's governing body, FIFA, voted to expand the World Cup to 48 teams from its current 32, brushing aside concerns that the expansion would lower the overall standard of the tournament and make it too big and unwieldy. FIFA president Gianni Infantino, fulfilling a promise he made during last year's election campaign, said



the move meant that "more can participate and many more will have a chance to dream." "It's not the 20th century any more. It's the 21st century. Football is more than Europe and South America. Football is global," he told reporters. "The football fever you have in a country that qualifies for the World Cup is the biggest promotion of the sport you can have." **REUTERS**

WAL-MART PLANS JOB CUTS THIS MONTH

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. plans to cut hundreds of jobs before the end of January, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing people familiar with the situation. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer plans to eliminate jobs at its headquarters and regional personnel that support stores, according to the report. Many of the eliminations will affect Wal-Mart's human resources

department, a large team that some senior executives believe should be more efficient or whose duties could be handled by outside consultants, the newspaper reported. Other departments could be affected as well, the report said. "While we continually look at our corporate structure, we have not made any announcements," Wal-Mart spokesman Randy Hargrove said in an email. **REUTERS**

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Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Detective Steven McDonald GETTY IMAGES

"No one could have predicted that Steven would touch so many people, in New York and around the world."

Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill

"This extraordinary family lives Detective McDonald's message of forgiveness and service every day."

Mayor Bill de Blasio

"Throughout his career in public service, Detective McDonald put his life on the line to protect his fellow New Yorkers, and served as a true inspiration to all of us."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo

Inspirational NYPD officer, paralyzed three decades ago, dies at age 59

Steven McDonald spread the message of peace from Northern Ireland to the Middle East.



KIMBERLY AQUILINA
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Detective Steven McDonald, who forgave the teen who shot and paralyzed him in Central Park in 1986 and in the decades that followed became an inspirational messenger of courage and peace, died Tuesday. He was 59.

McDonald died at North Shore University Hospital on Long Island where he had been taken after suffering a heart attack on Friday, Police Commissioner James P.

O'Neill announced. He was surrounded by his family at bedside.

"Throughout his career in public service, Detective McDonald put his life on the line to protect his fellow New Yorkers, and served as a true inspiration to all of us," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "When the odds were stacked against him, Detective McDonald set the standard of excellence and demonstrated unparalleled resilience and compassion. Detective McDonald represents the very best of New York and his grand presence will be sorely missed."

On July 12, 1986, McDonald, four days shy of his second anniversary with the NYPD, approached three teens in Central Park. Shavon

Jones, a 15-year-old suspected bike thief, shot the undercover officer three times, according to the NYPD.

McDonald was instantly paralyzed and was not expected to survive.

His wife, Patti Ann, was visiting family in Pennsylvania at the time, pregnant with their only child, Conor, who later became a fourth-generation NYPD officer.

"This extraordinary family lives Detective McDonald's message of forgiveness and service every day," Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Tuesday. "We are blessed that NYPD Detective Sergeant Conor McDonald continues in his father's footsteps and will ensure his legacy lives on

Funeral arrangements

A wake for Detective Steven McDonald is planned for Wednesday and Thursday at St. Agnes Parish Center in Rockville Centre.

A funeral Mass will be said by Cardinal Timothy Dolan on Friday morning at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan.

in the greatest police department in the world."

On the day of his son's baptism, McDonald publicly forgave the boy who made him a quadriplegic.

"I forgive him, and hope that he can find peace and purpose in his life," he said,

the New York Daily News reported.

The shooter was sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison and was released in 1995. Three days later, Jones died from head injuries sustained while riding on the back of a motorcycle, the New York Post reported.

McDonald went back to work in January 1988 and was promoted to detective in 1995.

Unable to hug his wife or salute his police sergeant son, McDonald spent his life spreading a message of peace. He traveled to Northern Ireland, Bosnia and the Middle East; he sat for interviews with Barbara Walters and David Letterman; he met the late Pope John Paul II, former President George W. Bush and former

revolutionary president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

Bruce Springsteen even babysat his son one night, the Daily News reported.

"No one could have predicted that Steven would touch so many people, in New York and around the world," O'Neill said Tuesday. "Like so many cops, Steven joined the NYPD to make a difference in people's lives. And he accomplished that every day. He is a model for each of us as we go about our daily lives. He will be greatly missed, and will always remain a part of our family."

In addition to his wife and son, McDonald is survived by his brother and sisters and his father, David McDonald.

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Activists protest NYPD captain's dismissive comments on acquaintance rape

Advocates from NOW and other organizations demonstrated outside the 94th Precinct Tuesday.



AMANDA MIKELBERG
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Women's activists gathered outside an NYPD precinct in Brooklyn Tuesday to protest remarks made by its commanding officer about the seriousness of acquaintance rape last week.

Unsatisfied with Capt. Peter Rose's apology posted to Twitter on Monday, dozens of activists from the New York City chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW) demonstrated outside the precinct and demanded further mea-

stranger rape, a random guy picks up a stranger off the street, those are the troubling ones," Rose told a reporter. "That person has, like, no moral standards."

Rose's official apology posted to Twitter on Monday began with "my sincerest apologies for the comments I've made," and was accompanied by an attachment that continued: "I deeply regret the statements I made last week about rape. I failed to communicate accurately how I respond to reports of rape, and the actions the department as a whole takes. My comments were not meant to minimize the seriousness of sexual assault."

Jane Manning, director of advocacy for the NOW partner organization Women's Justice NOW that joined the protest, said: "An apology was warranted, but an apology doesn't fix the problem ... New York City women deserve accountability and a close examination of the NYPD to determine whether the 94th precinct is an anomaly or part of a larger, more systemic problem."

A number of state and U.S. politicians had called for Rose to make the apology, and NYPD Police Commissioner James O'Neill published a response to the Rose's "insensitive" comments in the New York Daily News Monday, defending the NYPD's approach to handling rape cases, and pointing out how extremely underreported rape is locally and nationally. He cited figures from the U.S. Justice Department's survey that only 32 percent of rapes are reported.

For the expanded version, visit metro.us

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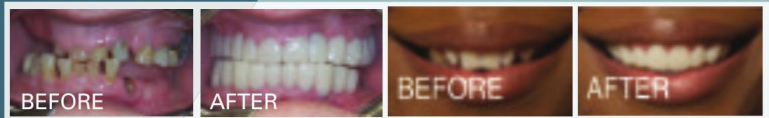
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BRIEF

Man accused of grinding against woman on train freed on diplomatic immunity

A man arrested for allegedly touching a woman in an inappropriate way on a Midtown subway was released because of his diplomatic immunity, NYPD officials said Tuesday.

Mohammad Abdalla Ali, 49, a diplomat from Sudan, was taken into custody after allegedly rubbing up against a 38-year-old woman on a northbound 4 train

leaving Grand Central Terminal on Monday afternoon, police said.

Ali was charged with forcible touching but released after he proved he was a diplomat.

"There's not much you can do. He has diplomatic immunity," a police source told the New York Daily News.

According to the U.S. Department of State, "diplomatic immunity does not exempt diplomatic officers from the obligation of conforming with national and



Grand Central Terminal WIKIMEDIA

local laws and regulations. Diplomatic immunity is not intended to serve as a license for persons to flout the law and purposely avoid liability for their actions."

The NYPD has alerted State Department officials about the incident.

Metro attempted to reach the Sudanese embassy in New York for comment, but was unable to leave a message as its mailbox was full.

NIKKI M. MASCALI



The Blaze Laserlight projects an image of a bike, like Batman's "bat signal," to warn cars that a bike is on its way. **BLAZE**

Citi Bike adds lasers to increase bike-share rider safety

"This looks really cool," one New York City council member said.



KIMBERLY AQUILINA
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Biking is a green way to get around in the city, but some are concerned about the dangers of sharing the streets with cyclists.

Motivate, the entity that operates the Citi Bike program, and a company called Blaze announced Tuesday that they are tackling one corner of the safety issue by installing a new feature on 250 bikes this winter — the Blaze Laserlight.

In addition to Citi Bike's current features, including the lights and lamps that currently make all of the program's bikes street legal, a laser-projected image of a bike will be shown ahead of the bike to warn cars and pedestrians about the approaching bike.

"We have been working with Motivate over a year to develop a brand-new product that brings our innovative projection technology to the streets of New York," founder and Blaze CEO Emily Brooke said. "It also includes improved front lighting and connectivity, making cycling with a Citi Bike even safer and more enjoyable."

Laserlights were used on a fleet of bikes used for ride-sharing in London. Motivate said it found that a night rider is even more

visible with a Laserlight than a cyclist during the day.

Bus drivers in England said it was easier to see and react to cyclists at night and 75 percent of cyclists surveyed said the safety feature made them feel more confident, according to Motivate.

"By incorporating Blaze's lights into the bike, we aim to keep New Yorkers on foot, behind the wheel and riding a Citi Bike safer and to improve the rider experience overall so that people of all backgrounds are inspired to try New York City's popular bike share program," Motivate President and CEO Jay Walder said.

New York City Council Member Robert E. Cornegy Jr. (D-Bed Stuy) is a cycling enthusiast, and it isn't uncommon to see him biking from Brooklyn to City Hall. He said he is looking forward to seeing what the addition of Laserlights will bring.

Council Member Helen Rosenthal (D-Upper West Side) added, "This looks really cool."

A spokeswoman for Motivate said the 250 bikes are part of a pilot program and it won't cost riders more to use the bikes equipped with Laserlights. She added that women are especially excited about the new feature.

The company touts the bike-share program as "extremely safe" and reports "few serious injuries and no deaths in the nearly 37 million trips" since 2013.

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THOUSANDS of knee arthritis sufferers flock for this advanced medical

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*Why patients come from Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island, the Bronx
for this arthritis pain treatment . . . and why waiting*

By Matt Edgar -
America's Health
Writer

NY Pain MD, a center for Non-Surgical Medical Relief For Spine And Joint Pain Relief, is a medical clinic with multiple locations in New York City that has treated thousands of knee arthritis patients. Here is what every knee arthritis sufferer should know about the best treatments and options available today. And why waiting can drastically decrease your chances to live a pain free life again.

The information you are about to read can possibly save you from years and years of agonizing knee pain. It might even keep you from getting total knee replacement surgery. *Please pay careful attention.*

What you are about to read is a cutting-edge medical treatment... But it is NOT what it appears to be at first glance. In fact, I'm going to have to ask for a bit of patience from you if you have already **unsuccessfully** tried any (or many) other knee arthritis pain treatments

You see, many knee arthritis sufferers had already tried what seemed to be similar

treatments to what we are going to talk about and did not get the results they wanted. But I assure you there is something VERY DIFFERENT about the technology and the way we do this treatment that can possibly make it much more effective for many ... and it often gets results when many others have failed.

This is why patients come from all over the tri-state area and beyond to have their knee arthritis pain treated here.

Would You Like Instant Proof?

If you want instant proof - you can just look at all the actual patient testimonials we have included. These patients were once skeptical just like you ... and are now either pain free ... or eliminated quite a bit of their pain..

Here's the most important thing:

Many said they had seen this information SEVERAL times before finally deciding to take action and give us a call. As you can see - they are happy they did. Once crippled with knee pain, they are playing golf again, dancing again, riding bikes again and going for long walks again.

But We Do Get One Very Common Complaint ... And it is:

"I wish I started this treatment much sooner."

Let's be very clear about this. Time is the most precious thing. There is no way to slow it down - or get any of it back once it's gone.

All the more reason for you to *not* suffer even one more second than necessary. Missing life while suffering in pain is a tragedy. Isn't it time for you try to get rid of your knee pain and start living the life you want and deserve?

And please understand this: One of the keys to success in medicine is early diagnosis and treatment. Like many diseases, arthritis only gets worse over time. The longer you wait - the more damage to your knee and eventually- the more pain. If you wait "past the point of no return", the entire knee joint can be degenerated and your ONLY option will be total knee replacement.

If you are suffering with knee arthritis pain, here is why you should act NOW:

When you have arthritis, you suffer a decrease in the lubricating fluids in your knee. In other words, your knee joint basically "*dries up.*" The lubricating

fluid that decreases is called "*synovial fluid*". Pharmaceutical companies can now make synovial fluid-like compounds that... during treatment... doctors precisely and directly apply these gel-like medicines into the knee joint. This helps replenish the lubricating fluid to the knee joint - cushioning the knee allowing it to move more freely and smoothly while often decreasing or even eliminating pain.

What Results Can Be Expected?

Like all medical treatments, the results vary and can not be predicted. In fact, it is impossible to predict results and there are no statistics proving what the "average" patients can expect. Everyone is individual and gets individual results - so we never tell anyone to expect the same results as any of our other patients. But to be 100% clear - many knee arthritis sufferers get dramatic results. It is not uncommon for patients to either postpone knee replacement surgery for years ... or even permanently cancel it.

What Are Treatments Like?

Treatments are simple, fast and virtually painless. The total time of the procedure itself is only 10 minutes and

you walk out of the clinic just minutes after your procedure with nothing but a one inch band-aid on your knee.

But There Is A BIG Problem. The key is that the treatment must be EXTREMELY PRECISE. Often ignored by many other clinics, if the procedure is just slightly off, the medication will not get exactly into the knee joint and the treatment will not work. That's why the experts at **NY Pain MD** use what they call "Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology" or **P.A.T.T.** - so they can confirm the special medicine went directly into the knee joint and not into the surrounding tissues.

Research shows that doctors performing procedures without Precision Arthritis Targeting can miss the joint as much as 30% of the time. If you had viscosupplementation (or Stem Cells or PRP) without the exactness of P.A.T.T. and did not get good results - this may be why.

In fact, by using Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology, **NY Pain MD** doctors are able to "double confirm" the precise placement of the natural arthritis medicines used. This is to help ensure patients get the best possible results.

Another Important Factor

Viscosupplementation medications also come in several different brands and chemical make- ups. Just like all medications, some people respond better to some than others. While many doctors only use one type or formula, the experts at **NY Pain MD** use several. And great effort is taken to figure out which is best for YOU.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain

Your Special Invitation

NY Pain MD offers a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get their questions answered and find out if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at **NY Pain MD**. To schedule a complimentary screening, all you have to do is call **800-227-KNEE**. The screenings can fill up fast every month. But, this screening is at no cost and there is no further obligation. Call **800-227-KNEE** to schedule your screening. Many of the procedures offered at **NY Pain MD** are often covered by many insurance plans, union plans, work comp and even traditional & AARP Medicare.

al treatment & how they relieved pain while so many continue to suffer n: The Untold Story

c, Staten Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and beyond
can decrease your chance to live a pain-free life again

"I cannot ask for better results"



Dr. Stanley Weiner, M.D. - Surgeon

I had (replacement) surgery scheduled last year. But three months before the surgery I decided to make an appointment with **NY Pain MD**. I was amazed at the ease with which I was evaluated and the treatment schedule implemented. The results I had at **NY Pain MD** were outstanding. I cannot ask for better results. After the treatment I was able to go back to work with no discomfort at all. They use a digital monitor to locate the space that they use the treatment for and it's like exact science and I never had to have replacement.

Dr. Stanley Weiner MD

"Hey this feel terrific"



I was diagnosed with bone on bone about 2 years ago I went to see an Orthopedic Surgeon and he said my knees were shot and I need to get them replaced. The NY Pain guys said after looking at x-rays they could help. That procedure is so basic so simple so quick in 15 minutes you are in and out. When I got up out of the chair I stood up and I said, *"Hey this feels terrific."*

"I don't have any pain any more"



After I had the treatments ... the last tune up ... I just go right to the golf course. I'm able to keep up with these guys who walk - I'm right next to them! My guys on the golf course would say Hey, look at this he doesn't need us to put the ball up any more. **When I'm playing on the course I don't have any pain any more I don't have any aches and pain.** I'm out there playing!

"I feel like a new woman"



I came to the clinic because I was not sleeping at night. My leg was pounding. There were times when I sat too long the knee would tighten up. I would get in pain and I would be miserable and I would have it for the whole night. **After the treatment I goof around with my grandchildren. I feel like a new woman.** It's great. I know I don't have to sit on the couch and be in pain and I can just pick up and get dressed and go out. It was so gentle.

"I'm able to do it again"



It got to the point where I couldn't stand up for a period of time and I knew something had to be done about it. You walk into the doctors office - he puts your leg in a machine - he shows you where he is going to do the procedure and before you know it... It's done and you're outta there. Now I'm able to take out my bicycle and we took a couple of rides out in the woods and we had a good time and . . . ***I couldn't do that for years and now I'm able to do it again.***

"I feel like a new woman - It's amazing"



The pain was excruciating like 24/7. Nothing I took over-the-counter would work so I knew it was something more serious. When I saw that my condition was not getting any better, I decided to do something about it and I immediately made an appointment - I went and started treatment. **The feeling of getting back to my dancing and my mobility is indescribable. I feel like a new woman - It's amazing.**

"I am ecstatic with the results of this procedure"



One day, as I was running, my knee got tighter and tighter. I had to stop and just walk home. They x-rayed me and said I was a candidate for treatment. You sit there for few minutes and then you are up and walking out the door. I am ecstatic with the results of this procedure because I could not run just weeks before. I ran my race without any issues. I felt good - it just opened a door that was closing.

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BRIEF

2 die in separate crashes in Brooklyn: NYPD

A pedestrian and a cyclist were struck and killed by vehicles in two separate incidents in Brooklyn, NYPD said Tuesday.

The first collision occurred in Coney Island around 4:45 p.m. Monday on Avenue X near Coney Island Avenue. A bicyclist was attempting to pass a delivery truck on the right in an area that did not have a designated bike lane, police said.

The truck moved to the right at the same time, and the bicyclist, who was identified as 69-year-old Iosif Plazinskiy, was hit by the truck and lost his balance. He fell onto the road and was struck by the truck's rear tires.

Plazinskiy suffered trauma to the torso and head and was taken to Coney Island Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The truck's 50-year-old driver remained at the scene and wasn't charged, police said.

Less than an hour later, a pedestrian was struck by a 2004 Nissan Pathfinder in the vicinity of Avenue A and Linden Boulevard in Brownsville.

The Nissan was traveling eastbound from Remsen



A police car is parked at a crime scene. GETTY IMAGES

Avenue on Avenue A when its driver hit two vehicles that were double-parked. He continued toward Linden Boulevard and struck a pedestrian who was crossing the street mid-block, police said.

After striking the pedestrian, who was identified as Marlon Palacios, 43, the Pathfinder hit two more parked vehicles and a 2012 Audi that was stopped at the corner of Avenue A and Linden Boulevard. The Audi was driven by a 41-year-old woman. She and the 40-year-old driver of the Pathfinder stayed at scene. No one has been charged and

it was unclear what caused the driver of Pathfinder to strike the vehicles.

Palacios was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to the most recent data from New York City, there were 17 cyclist fatalities from Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 2016, and more than 4,300 injuries. There were 128 pedestrian fatalities and nearly 9,700 injuries in that same period.

In 2015, there were a total of 133 fatal traffic incidents involving pedestrians and 14 involving cyclists.

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US companies have new business risk — Trump labeling them as ‘anti-American’

Trump campaigned on an “America First” anti-globalization platform that promised the return of thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs to economically depressed areas.

Some U.S. companies are reviewing potential mergers while others are rethinking job cuts or looking at their manufacturing operations in China for fear of being cast as “anti-American” by President-elect Donald Trump, according to Wall Street bankers, company executives and crisis management consultants.

Having seen some of America’s largest companies, including General Motors Co., Lockheed Martin Corp. and United Technologies Corp.,

bluntly and publicly rebuked by Trump on Twitter, many others are worried they may be his next target — especially if they have significant overseas manufacturing, have had U.S. job cuts or price increases for consumers.

“Any business that leaves our country for another country, fires its employees, builds a new factory or plant in the other country, and then thinks it will sell its product back into the U.S. without retribution or consequence is WRONG!” Trump, who assumes office on Jan. 20, tweeted in December.

That nationalist rhetoric and Trump’s willingness to use his Twitter account as a cudgel has so rattled some companies that they are putting on hold mergers and acquisitions that may involve significant job cuts or



Companies are beefing up their Twitter monitoring for any Trump tweets that could affect them. GETTY IMAGES

moving production or tax domicile abroad, out of fear that such deals could be seen as “unpatriotic,” several top Wall Street bankers said.

Bermuda-based White Mountains Insurance Group Ltd. had been in talks to sell itself in a transaction that would have been structured as an inversion — where a U.S.-based buyer would move its tax domicile

overseas.

However, the deal fell apart after the November election partly because potential buyers worried that leaving the U.S. tax home would be seen as “anti-American,” three people with knowledge of the matter said. Potential buyers also found the target less attractive because of the likelihood of lower U.S. corporate taxes under

“You never want to be against the president — especially not one as vocal as [Trump].”

A Fortune 500 CEO

the Trump administration, the people said.

Representatives of the \$3.8 billion company declined to comment.

At least two other insurance deals have also fallen apart since the election for similar reasons, said the people, who declined to elaborate and asked not to be named because the matter is not public.

Trump’s aggressive anti-China rhetoric has also given some companies pause. REUTERS

BRIEF

Trump’s nominee for attorney general says he can stand up to him

Donald Trump’s choice for attorney general promised on Tuesday to stand up to Trump, his close ally and future boss, saying he would oppose a ban on Muslims entering the country and enforce a law against waterboarding even though he voted against the law.

Questioned by a U.S. Senate committee tasked with confirming his appointment, Sen. Jeff Sessions distanced himself from comments he had made defending Trump from criticism over a 2005 video that emerged in October showing Trump boasting about grabbing women’s genitals.

At the time Sessions told The Weekly Standard magazine he would not characterize the behavior as sexual assault. He later said the comments were taken out of context. Asked on Tuesday whether “grabbing a woman by her genitals without consent is ... sexual assault,” he replied, “Clearly, it would be.”

With 10 days to go before Trump enters the White House, Sessions, 70, was the first of his Cabinet nominees to go before a Senate committee. REUTERS

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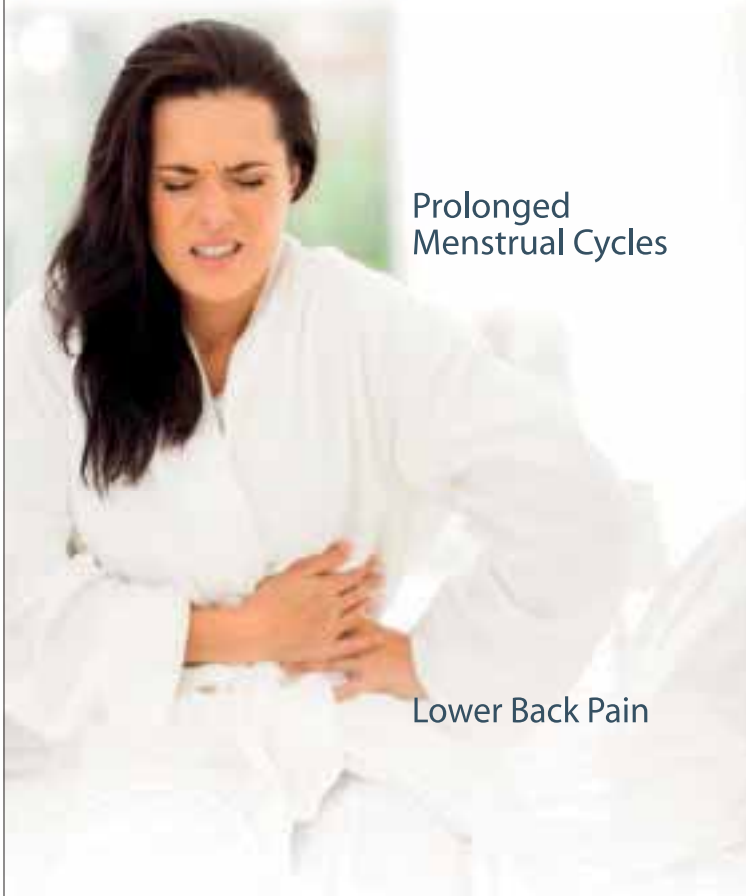


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Farewell speech



Obama

President Barack Obama delivers a farewell speech to the nation on January 10, 2017 in Chicago, Illinois.
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Trump tells Republicans to pass Obamacare replacement 'very quickly'

In an interview with the New York Times, Trump said he wanted a substitute for President Barack Obama's health-care law done "very quickly or simultaneously" to the vote to get rid of it.

Donald Trump on Tuesday put renewed pressure on congressional Republicans working to repeal Obamacare, insisting that lawmakers pass a replacement for the health-care law at the same time or soon after they vote to dismantle it.

With Trump preparing to succeed Obama on Jan. 20, Republicans, who control both chambers of

Congress, face a dilemma.

They have a chance to make good on their promise to gut the 2010 health-care law known as Obamacare and have taken some initial steps to clear the decks for such action.

But reaching agreement among Republicans for replacement legislation likely will prove harder than passing a repeal. If Republicans are unable to put in place a substitute, millions of Americans who receive health care under Obamacare may be at risk of losing coverage.

The law extended insurance coverage to uninsured Americans by expanding the Medicaid program for the poor and creating online exchanges where consumers can shop for private health insurance plans. The law



Paul Ryan speaks about efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act. GETTY IMAGES

also provides for subsidies to help individuals and families afford coverage purchased on the exchanges.

House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan said on Tuesday that some elements of an insurance substitute likely would be ready when lawmakers vote to repeal Obamacare, but other aspects would take longer. Some Republican lawmakers have said it could take up to two years to come up with a replacement.

Trump said in the New York Times interview that a delay of that length was unacceptable.

"It won't be repeal and then two years later go in with another plan," he said, according to the paper.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday that Trump's comments were "not inconsistent" with lawmakers' plans.

The Senate is expected to vote this week on a budget measure that would direct committees to draft Obamacare repeal legislation shortly. If the measure passes the Senate, it would go to the House for a vote, probably on Friday, House Republican aides said. REUTERS

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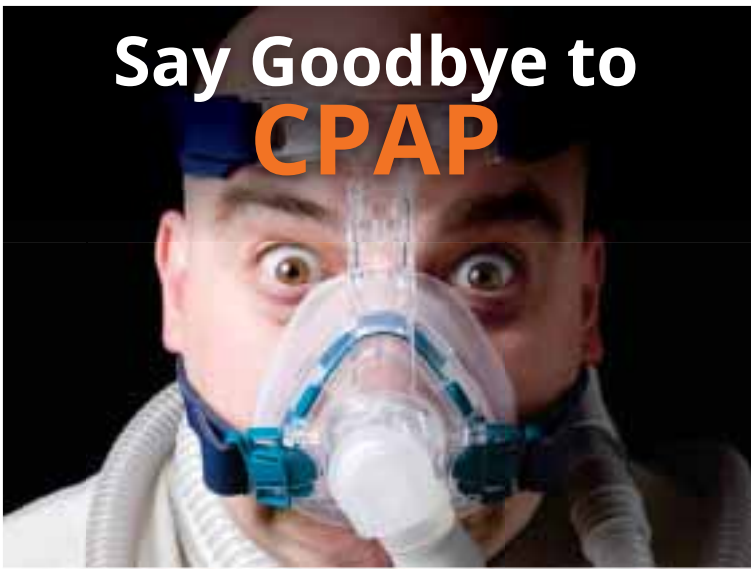
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Obama says Israeli settlements are making two-state solution impossible

Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war. It later annexed East Jerusalem in a move not recognized internationally.



A Palestinian works on a construction site in the Israeli settlement of Efrat situated on the southern outskirts of the West Bank city of Bethlehem. GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama, in an interview aired on Israeli television on Tuesday, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy backing settlements in occupied territory is making a future Palestinian state impossible.

"Bibi says that he believes in the two-state solution and yet his actions consistently have shown that if he is getting pressured to approve more settlements he will do so regardless of what he says about the importance of the two-state solution," Obama said, referring to

Netanyahu by his nickname.

Some 570,000 Israelis now live in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and in East Jerusalem, together home to more than 2.6 million Palestinians.

Obama, who leaves office on Jan. 20, said that in the past few years both he and Secretary of State John Kerry had "countless times" personally appealed to Netanyahu to stop settlement activity, but that those pleas were

ignored.

"Increasingly what you are seeing is that the facts on the ground are making it almost impossible, at least very difficult, and if this trendline continues — impossible, to create a contiguous, functioning Palestinian state," Obama told Channel Two's "Uvda" program.

Israel expects to receive more favorable treatment from Obama's successor, President-elect Donald Trump. REUTERS

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Scientists find clues to why binge-drinking causes binge-eating

Scientists have found that the brain cells in mice that stimulate the urge to eat can be activated by alcohol as well as by hunger — a discovery that could help explain why binge drinking often leads to binge eating.

In an experiment, mice subjected to a three-day “alcoholic weekend” were found to eat significantly more food than mice that stayed sober.

The results, published in the journal *Nature Communications* on Tuesday, show that major components of the brain’s feeding circuits are activated by alcohol, the researchers said.

“Our data suggest that alcohol sustains fundamental appetite signals, [and does] not just disinhibit their behavioral manifestation,” wrote De-

nis Burdakov, who led the study at the Francis Crick Institute in London.

Consumption of alcohol has previously been linked to overeating in humans, but the underlying causes were unclear — particularly since alcohol is high in calories, and calorie intake usually suppresses brain appetite signals.

Burdakov said his study found that specific hunger-promoting brain cells known as AgRP neurons, which form part of the feeding circuit in mouse brains, are activated by alcohol.

To test the validity of their findings, Burdakov’s team were able to block activity of these neurons in some mice, and they found that this eliminated alcohol-induced overeating.



Obesity and heavy drinking causes major health risks. GETTY IMAGES

This shows, they said, “that the alcohol-associated activity of AgRP neurons ... is the critical step in alcohol-induced overeating.”

Obesity and heavy drinking are major causes of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic health problems affecting millions of people worldwide. REUTERS

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Kim Kardashian robbery was likely an inside job

New evidence is in, and it suggests that Kim Kardashian's traumatic Paris heist was an inside job. On Monday, 17 suspects were arrested in connection with the robbery, including a limo driver who was the last person to have chauffeured Kardashian on the night of the incident.

According to People, French police believe he may have supplied the

robbers with information on the reality star's whereabouts. The suspects include a 72-year-old man identified as "Pierre B," who is said to have organized the robbery, according to French police reports.

Kardashian, who is reportedly very happy with the progress of the investigation, celebrated the news with a night out at Shu Sushi with

husband Kanye West in tow. The recently reclusive pair looked more like themselves than ever, with Kardashian dressed down in deconstructed lacy denim, and Kanye wearing a cozy, luxurious sweat suit. We're guessing much like time, sushi heals all wounds.

Aly Raisman and Simone Biles in the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue

Sports Illustrated's Swimsuit Issue just keeps getting better and better.

Everyone's favorite Olympic gymnasts, Aly Raisman and Simone Biles, are trading in their leotards for bikinis as part of SI's 2017 Swimsuit Issue. And guess what: They look stunning.

"Aly and Simone represent all that is beautiful and strong and inspiring in women today," says editor MJ Day. "These women, their beauty and what they can achieve, know no limits."



BOTH JAMES MACRAI/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED



Chris Brown and Soulja Boy are taking their beef to Dubai



Another day, another drawn out Twitter and Instagram beef between two celebrities that should know better. Soulja Boy finally got what he wanted — Chris Brown is ready to meet him in the boxing ring. And what's more, the two are allegedly taking it all the way to Dubai.

That's right. In a bid to fill their pockets and, I don't know, wring the most attention out of this absurd turn of events, the two petulant

man-children are planning a fight overseas. TMZ reports they genuinely want to punch the crap out of each other because they genuinely don't like each other. You guys! Duke it out or shut up. Or, like, fade into obscurity. Whatever works.

Chris Brown is being trained by Mike Tyson while Soulja Boy is being trained by Floyd Mayweather, and all four of these grown men sure have a lot of time on their hands.

Are Brad Pitt and Kate Hudson dating?

Brad Pitt is slowly but surely making his way back into the spotlight. The actor — looking really, really good, frankly — made a rare appearance at the Golden Globes on Sunday, to lots of cheers and applause from his fellow A-listers. But that's not all.

The powerhouse formerly known as Brangelina released a joint statement late Monday evening promising to keep the details of their divorce on the hush and out of the public eye. According to an exclusive statement

obtained by People, Pitt and Angelina Jolie are "committed to act as a united front to effectuate recovery and reunification," which sounds like a fancy

way to remind us all to mind our business while they put their family first. Meanwhile, the very handsome actor (seriously, he looked so good) has been rumored to be hooking up with actress Kate Hudson. Between producing award-winning movies and getting divorced in front of the whole world, where does he find the time?



the word

RACHAEL CLEMMONS

Kourtney Kardashian threw her sons a 'The Fast and the Furious' party

Kourtney Kardashian had an epic "The Fast and the Furious"-themed birthday party for sons Mason and Reign, and it has us feeling some kind of way.

Seven-year-old Mason, a child wise beyond his years, requested the theme and probably all of the badassery that came along with

it. This party had everything — a huge monster-truck-shaped bouncy slide, a race-track game, one of the actual cars from the movie, a screening of the original film and an appearance from Mama Kris herself.

The only question is — are we too old to copy this idea for our birthday?



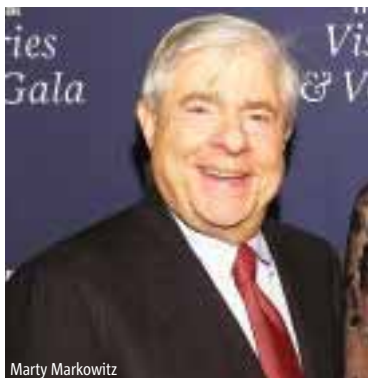
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Clayton Patterson



Lady Bunny



Marty Markowitz



Julissa Arce. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'I love New York?'

Get ready to debate our city, on a couch with wine, at the Museum of the City of New York.



EVA KIS
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As a reporter for The New York Times, Sarah Maslin Nir has made a career of talking about the city, and one thing is clear: Nobody agrees on what's best for what she calls our "unbelievable, throbbing metropolis." But you're not a New Yorker if you don't love a good debate, and she's about to get into it with some of the city's most outspoken voices in a new conversation series called "Only in New York."

"Every person on the panel is a double-take-inducing figure," says the Harlem-born reporter, who will moderate the talks. "They'll make you look twice and think twice. It is a series of big personalities, and it's gonna be weird and wonderful."

The series is part of the Museum of the City of New York's re-invention, inspired by its recently opened in-

teractive exhibit "New York at Its Core," about its history and how the forces of money, density, diversity and creativity have shaped it. Beginning today, "Only in New York" will bring big emotion right from the start — the first panel in the monthly series is called "I Love New York?" and pits 23-year former state Sen. Marty Markowitz against Clayton Patterson, the notorious Lower East Side street artist and activist, on whether gentrification is pushing out creativity.

"Marty Markowitz has done much to clean up the city into what we know it as now, and all along the way Clayton Patterson has tried to be a bulwark against that because he believes the city loses something as we make it squeaky clean," explains Nir.

"For me personally, I'm both Clayton Patterson and Marty Markowitz. Each and every New Yorker, don't we all love that we won't get knifed on the subway anymore, but don't we miss the gorgeous, gritty, graffiti-covered trains? There is a tension that we all hold."

Other deeply divisive subjects will include

If you go

"Only in New York"
Monthly, begins
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Museum of the City of
New York, 1220 Fifth Ave.
\$25, mcny.org

whether diversity has value, the changing nightlife scene and who can still "make it here," as Frank Sinatra sang. "The point isn't to decide on an answer," says Nir, because "I think everybody really benefits more from a question."

The format will be unusual, too, with guests sharing a couch onstage, wine in hand, giving the event a "talk show-y, homey atmosphere" that generates heartfelt discussion rather than just presentations. After the talks, stick around for a wine reception and gab with the evening's guests one-on-one.

"It's an endlessly evolving, hustling city; it's fast and furious, difficult and complicated, and it's magical beyond belief," she says. "All of us really care about New York, and we're all vested in its progress."

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Fred Armisen of 'Portlandia' thinks it's over for the nerds

The hunks have officially taken over.



JENNIFER LOGUE
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jennifer.logue@metro.us

You would think by its seventh season, "Portlandia" would start losing steam — but it hasn't. The quirky sketch comedy series follows the lovable yet eccentric characters who "keep Portland weird," with Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein playing most of them. From the feminist-bookstore owners to the gothic oddballs to ultra-bohemian couples, "Portlandia" is a patchwork of relatability and quality laughs. We got to chat with one of its creators and stars, Fred Armisen, about hunks taking over, why Trump isn't touched on this season and the possibility of a "Portlandia" album.

How does it feel to be in Season 7?

It's the best. I love doing "Portlandia." We learn more and more every year. We get better at it. I can't believe my luck. To be going this long — I think of it as my new job still. I'm very fortunate.

Each episode moves so fast and the sketches are chock

full of great characters. What is the writing process for a show like this?

Maybe two months? We have the writer's room. We work really hard on it. We make sure that it has some relevance, that it's fun — a million things put together so we're all happy. It's the opposite of lazy. We work long hours to make sure it has a shelf life. We've got a good group.

Ever since the "Song for Portland" episode, I keep wondering if you guys will ever do a "Portlandia" album, with you and Carrie and all of the guest stars. Any chance of

that ever happening?

That's a really great idea. My answer is yes. I think that would be really cool. Ideas like that are so good. It's actually getting it together that takes a bit of work. But I think it would be worth it.

A lot of comedy shows are being pretty direct about their disapproval of Donald Trump right now. However, in the episodes I've seen so far in this season, it's a subject you don't touch on. Any reason for that?

We don't have the luxury of being a nightly or weekly TV show. We shoot in the summer. We started writing last year in May. Be-



In Season 7, Carrie dates a hunk and the nerds don't like it. AUGUSTA QUIRK

cause it takes so long, we can't afford to get specific. With ours, we need to keep it vague.

The "What About Men?" sketch really made me think of Trump supporters — white men out there who feel like their voices aren't being heard. But then there's the hunks bit. You really think hunks are taking over in our culture?

They already took over! [Laughs] There was a time when hunks were dum-dums, and now they have a sense of humor. They're smart, they're comedians, they do it all and they're so accepted now. They're taking the thunder away from the nerds, and nerds are jealous of that.

What can nerds do?

We need a "What About Nerds?" sketch. They're disappearing. They became so difficult that now they don't get to

be heard at all. There are so many subgenres [like gaming] and they're disappearing into them.

You've played so many characters on this show. Do you have a favorite?

I always relate to the weirdo goth characters. I don't know why. I love doing them. I wish I could do a whole show with just them.

What do you do when you're not working on "Portlandia?"

Working on other shows. I never have a day off — ever. I just keep going.

Do you have any advice for people out there getting their start in comedy?

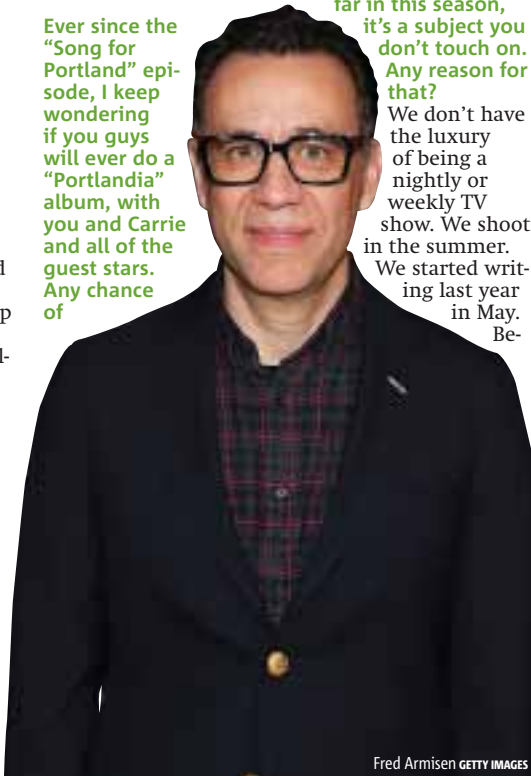
If they're already doing things on YouTube, they're already on the right path and doing the right things. That's the first step. You're already in great shape.

There's plenty of time. My advice is to always surround yourself with people who make you laugh and most likely you're making them laugh too. Because then your whole experience all the way through is a fun experience so at least you're enjoying all of that time.

On that note, what's it like working with Carrie all these years?

She's my best friend in the whole world. That is the luckiest thing of my whole life. That is the best thing — everything I love combined that I get to hang out with her and work with her. I don't know what I could have done in a past life to have deserved such a great experience but it really is on many levels the greatest thing.

The next new episode of "Portlandia" airs this Thursday, Jan. 12 at 10 p.m. on IFC.



Fred Armisen GETTY IMAGES



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Elle Fanning goes back in time (twice)



Elle Fanning plays an aspiring actress-turned-evangelist in Ben Affleck's 1920s-set gangster movie "Live by Night," which expands to more theaters this weekend.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The actress talks doing history in both "Live By Night" and "20th Century Women."



MATT PRIGGE
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Elle Fanning heads into the past twice this winter. In Ben Affleck's gangster movie, "Live by Night," she heads to the 1920s to play a young Florida woman whose trip to Hollywood leads to a heroin addiction, not fame; once home, she finally makes her name as a popular evangelist. In "20th Century Women," from "Beginners" director Mike Mills, the actress jumps back to 1979, playing a less impressionable character who simply shacks up in a Santa Barbara house with a group of strong-willed women (including Annette Bening and Greta Gerwig), plus some progressive dudes (Billy Crudup and Lucas Jade Zumann).

Fanning, 18, talks about her fear of public speaking, learning about history

and which song Mills "assigned" her for "20th Century Women."

Both here and in "20th Century Women" you got to do deep dives in the past. What kinds of things did you learn about the 1920s?

It was a great time for women, in a way. The corsets came off and they cut their hair and they became a little rebellious. The Roaring '20s seemed like a fun time. Ben was very authentic about recreating it. The underwear, the socks — everything was from the 1920s. They were delicate and musky-smelling. Even the makeup was period. You really felt like you were in that period. Films aren't made like this anymore, so beautiful and epic feeling. This felt like an old Hollywood movie.

You're also playing a very popular evangelist here, who commands huge crowds.

I had this scene where I had to do a sermon on a stage. That felt like theater to me. It was three pages of dialogue, and I was scared

On "20th Century Women"

I did want to ask about "20th Century Women," since it's also a period piece. It's set in 1979, which is, for one thing, a really cool time for music: punk, new wave, etc. We had dance parties before we did the table reads. We all got assigned a song. My song was "Rhiannon" by Fleetwood Mac. Julie [her character] wasn't so into the punk scene, so she wouldn't listen to the songs Abby [played by Greta Gerwig] would. But I do remember on set Mike Mills would play songs on his phone in between setups. He has such great taste in everything.

He's also the rare male director who really seems to get women. He's such a sensitive guy. He just understands people so well. That's why his characters are three-dimensional. He understands that women aren't just one way or this way. They're very complex. [Laughs] I think he captured that at all different ages and stages in life.

out of my mind. [Laughs] It was just me up there in front of a bunch of extras in a tent. It felt like I was really performing.

Are you generally afraid of public speaking?

I am. I get butterflies before and this adrenaline rush. But normally I'm like, "OK, Elle, you just have to suck it up and do it!" Somehow I just don't think about it because I'm out there and I just have to go for it. But I get nervous.

Do you think you could one day do theater? Some actors, like Amanda Seyfried, have said they're scared of live performances, although even she did an off-Broadway show a while back.

I would love to. I really would. I'd like to try everything.



GETTY IMAGES

Stream This

MATT PRIGGE
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"OCEAN'S TWELVE" NETFLIX INSTANT



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Here's an unpopular opinion: The best film trilogy of the 2000s wasn't "The Lord of the Rings." It was Steven Soderbergh's star-studded heist trifecta. Here's another: The finest of those was the silly middle entry — the one that was clearly a paid European vacation for celebrities who didn't need them, where you can tell everyone involved was more interested in goofing around than telling a story.

Thing is, no one has ever goofed around quite like this. Soderbergh has rarely been more formally playful, the cast never looper. And yet buried in all the loud colors and weirdo ad-libbing lies Catherine Zeta-Jones' finest screen work. As a dogged Interpol agent, she's steely, vulnerable, thrilling. Or maybe it's just that her hair looks better in a bob than as a flowing mane.

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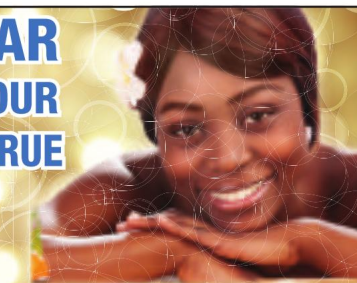
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Cleaning hacks for the home

home

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

The author of “Unf— Your Habitat” shows you how to manage the mess in 2017.



KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Rachel Hoffman wants to help you get your home in order for the new year.

“One of the problems with housekeeping in general is that people just get so overwhelmed,” she says.

Her new book, “Unf— your Habitat:

You’re Better Than Your Mess” offers a manageable system for tidying where you live. And it’s not Marie Kondo 2.0.

“Paring down is great, but if you’re constantly on a quest to get rid of everything, you’re never going to be satisfied with what you have,” says Hoffman. “I like to look at the whole picture of how to live in your home comfortably and happily and maintain that on a regular basis.”

Five years ago, the Rhode Island resident started the blog Unf— Your Habitat — also

available as an app — to help both herself and her friends get a better handle on their living space.

Everybody has that moment of, ‘I have to do X,Y,Z, but I don’t feel like it,’” says the 38-year-old. “So I started pestering people to do that thing — get off the computer for 10 minutes and throw that load of laundry in the dryer.”

Here’s to a clean slate — and a cleaner living space — in 2017.

“20/10s”

Set a timer and clean for

20 minutes, followed by a 10 minute break. Repeat as needed. “It’s a way to break down any household project into more manageable chunks of time,” explains Hoffman. “Taking that break is really important to keep you from looking at something as a giant, overwhelming

task that you have to marathon through.”

Set minichallenges

For when your house is a total mess and you don’t even know where to start, set a timer for five or 10 minutes and hone in on one specific task — clearing off your desk, collecting dirty dishes and

putting them in the sink or the dishwasher. “Then you look around and say, ‘Wow, that didn’t take any time at all. Now I can check one thing off the list,’” she says.

Take before and

after pics

When you’re in the middle of a home improvement project, you can’t always see the progress you’re making. Comparing before and after pics will prove to you what you’ve actually accomplished — and serve as a reminder, later: “You did it once, you can certainly do it again,” she says.

Make your bed

No one likes being told to make their bed. Yet, the small task, which takes maybe one or two minutes, is an easy first step to a tidier room. Forget hospital corners, says Hoffman; just pull the blankets up, smooth it out and you’re done. “A made bed can be a big spot of calm in an otherwise disastrous room,” she says. Plus, who doesn’t love the feeling of getting into a made bed at the end of a long day?

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	2 bedroom	\$482	3	→	2 person	\$18,515 – \$21,750
					3 people	\$18,515 – \$24,480
	3 bedroom	\$551	1	→	4 people	\$18,515 – \$27,180
					3 people	\$21,463 – \$24,480
					4 people	\$21,463 – \$27,180
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6 people					\$21,463 – \$29,370	

40% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent¹	Units Available		Household Size²	Annual Household Income³ (Minimum - Maximum)³
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	1 bedroom	\$558	5	→	1 person	\$21,086 - \$25,400
					2 people	\$21,086 - \$29,000
	2 bedroom	\$676	6	→	2 people	\$25,166 - \$29,000
					3 people	\$25,166 - \$32,640
					4 people	\$25,166 - \$36,240
	3 bedroom	\$775	2	→	3 people	\$29,143 - \$32,640
					4 people	\$29,143 - \$36,240
					5 people	\$29,143 - \$39,160
6 people					\$29,143 - \$42,040	

50% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent¹	Units Available		Household Size²	Annual Household Income³ (Minimum – Maximum)⁴
	Studio	\$670	3	→	1 person	\$24,858 – \$31,750
	1 bedroom	\$720	6	→	1 person	\$26,640 – \$31,750
					2 people	\$26,640 – \$36,250
	2 bedroom	\$870	5	→	2 people	\$31,818 – \$36,250
					3 people	\$31,818 – \$40,800
					4 people	\$31,818 – \$45,300
	3 bedroom	\$1000	2	→	3 people	\$36,858 – \$40,800
					4 people	\$36,858 – \$45,300
					5 people	\$36,858 – \$48,950
6 people					\$36,858 – \$52,550	

60% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent¹	Units Available		Household Size²	Annual Household Income³ (Minimum - Maximum)³
	Studio	\$822	1	→	1 person	\$30,069 - \$38,100
	1 bedroom	\$882	8	→	1 person	\$32,195 - \$38,100
					2 people	\$32,195 - \$43,500
	2 bedroom	\$1,065	40	→	2 people	\$38,503 - \$43,500
					3 people	\$38,503 - \$48,960
					4 people	\$38,503 - \$54,360
	3 bedroom	\$1,224	7	→	3 people	\$44,538 - \$48,960
					4 people	\$44,538 - \$54,360
					5 people	\$44,538 - \$58,740
6 people					\$44,538 - \$63,060	

100% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent¹	Units Available		Household Size²	Annual Household Income³ (Minimum – Maximum)⁴
	1 bedroom	\$1,254	2	→	1 person	\$44,949 – \$63,500
					2 people	\$44,949 – \$72,500
	2 bedroom	\$1,511	4	→	2 people	\$53,795 – \$72,500
					3 people	\$53,795 – \$81,600
					4 people	\$53,795 – \$90,600
	3 bedroom	\$1,740	2	→	3 people	\$62,229 – \$81,600
					4 people	\$62,229 – \$90,600
					5 people	\$62,229 – \$97,900
					6 people	\$62,229 – \$105,100

* Please include date for starting.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/buyersguide. To request an application **by mail**, send a self-addressed envelope to: Crotona Terrace Building B, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond HS, NY 11418. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **March 15, 2017**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If you're selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income.

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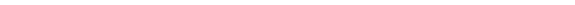
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FLIRTING WITH A COMEBACK

"Retired" Red Sox slugger David Ortiz loves drama, so you just knew that "Big Papi" would be teasing a return to the playing field every other week this off-season. When the Red Sox acquired Chris Sale in a trade with the White Sox a month ago, Ortiz took to Instagram and posted a photo of Sale with the cap-

tion, "My god, my boy Sale to Btown? You guys got me thinking."

Monday night he tweeted out something cryptic, simply writing, "@BostonGlobe." Was that some sort of bat signal to Sox and Globe owner John Henry that he's coming back to the Red Sox? Or does he want in on this here journalism game?

Here's a hunch, Papi: You wouldn't be happy with a journalist's salary.



Dumbbells and whistles

There's a new star at the football referee gun show, and his name is Mike Defee. NFL ref Ed Hochuli gained a great deal of notoriety last decade for showcasing his biceps during games but it seems as though Ed has cut back on the HGH in recent years. Defee took the biceps baton and curled it 48 times Monday night during the Clemson-Alabama national championship game, as his 30-inch pythons were glistening in HD. Defee had a southern drawl to boot, which basically makes him the perfect college football official.



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



FARTIN' PHIL

Making fun of the nonsensical stuff that Phil Simms says on national NFL broadcasts has become a sport of its own, so much so that there's an awesome Twitter feed called "Phil Simms Quotes." Here are some of the gems that Simms, CBS' No. 1 football analyst, trotted out Sunday during the Steelers-Dolphins game: "Adam Gase. Young. Look at him." "Sometimes there are good holdings. That might be one." "This pass caught them off guard! Well it didn't catch them off guard." "Believe me, I passed many 60-second concussion evaluations and I turned out fine." Simms also allegedly farted on air during the CBS broadcast Sunday. After YouTube review, I can say with a clear mind that there is no indisputable evidence that Simms did not poot.

NFL NICK?

Nick Saban is smart enough to know that the following perception is out there. He's the greatest college football coach in modern history, but he couldn't hack it when he coached in the pros. Will he try his hand at the pros again? First, you'll have to ask his agent.

"I didn't talk to one NFL team last year, they know who to call: Jimmy Sexton has been with me for a long time," Saban said two weeks ago of his trusted agent. "He calls me and says, 'Are you interested?' And I say no and that's it."

That's coach-speak for: "I'm listening."

A great spot for the 65-year-old Saban would be Denver, a ready-made playoff contender.



Knicks falling apart at the seams

The Derrick Rose situation underscores the Knicks' struggles.

TONY WILLIAMS
@TBone8
sports@metro.us

Derrick Rose went missing Monday night, which embodied the current fight in the Knicks.

Following a demoralizing 110-96 home defeat to the downtrodden New Orleans Pelicans (15-24), the Knicks (17-21) have found themselves in a real free fall, losing eight of their last 10 games, including four-straight at the Garden.

Monday night's circus began with Rose going AWOL, which preceded both Carmelo Anthony and Kyle O'Quinn being ejected in the third quarter, and ended with many predictable non-answers from quizzical teammates who also felt blindsided by their point

guard's defection.

According to center Joakim Noah, a friend and Rose confidant dating back to their days with the Chicago Bulls, he would only say that he heard from his buddy and that "everything is OK." Rose was at the Knicks' facility for Tuesday's practice and was seen speaking with general manager Steve Mills prior to taking the court for practice. He seemed in good spirits, only saying that his motive for going back home to Chicago unannounced was for "family reasons."

The Rose drama, however, is just the most recent dilemma for a team that's already at a crossroad, despite the season not even being at the halfway mark. Their once surprising start (14-10 and a No. 3 seed on Dec. 11) has given way to a dramatic plummet, as they're now 11th in the Eastern Conference, and have lost 11 of their last



Derrick Rose, right, and the Knicks have lost 11 of their last 14 games. GETTY IMAGES

14 outings since mid-December. Following three-straight lottery seasons for the Knicks, this was supposed to be a playoff

season — especially after team president Phil Jackson had a very active offseason, highlighted by his trading for Rose.

Assets-wise, it was a low-risk, high-reward move by Jackson as it only cost him center Robin Lopez, point guard Jose

Calderon, and guard Jerian Grant. The move was universally hailed in New York at that moment, but now everything has



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and clinical staff

unraveled. Rose, who is making \$21.3 million in the final year of his contract, went temporarily missing, Jackson has yet to publicly speak on the matter, and the Knicks are losing — a lot.

Monday night just underlined all of the Knicks' ills, with nary a remedy — unless checking out of a game is considered a start. Anthony decided to hit the showers when he was assessed two technical fouls by the usually mild-mannered head referee Danny Crawford. The Knicks were trailing 82-63 at that time when Anthony had some choice words while heading to the bench during a Pelicans' timeout. Two minutes later, O'Quinn joined him in the locker room after he was assessed a flagrant-two foul for his hard acosting of New Orleans star center Anthony Davis, with 1:16 remaining in the third quarter. O'Quinn slapped down hard on Davis' right arm

as he was driving to the basket, sending the Pelicans star flying into the stands. It might not have been an intentionally hard foul by O'Quinn, but it just showed how quickly things are unraveling in New York.

The frustration is mounting, and the actions by Anthony and O'Quinn — as well as the recent effort by the Knicks — is showing that just maybe this team does not have what it takes to be a contender. Add in the Rose situation, and now the Knicks are beginning to look like they're in full meltdown mode.

They'll play 12 more games this month, including seven in the next 10 days, which could either make or break their season. Wednesday night's tilt in Philadelphia could provide the start to an elixir. But if the Knicks can't take care of business against one of the league's dregs — with or without Rose — then nothing may save them.

Knicks notes:

- Rose has reportedly had a strained relationship with Jeff Hornacek, as the first-year coach benched him for the entire fourth quarter in the two games leading up to his no-show on Monday. But Hornacek gave a curt "no" when asked if he believed the benching contributed to Rose's vanishing act.
- Rose, 28, has averaged 17.3 points per game on 44-percent shooting and has a PER rating of 15.76. His PER rating places him 25th among all point guards. In contrast, during his 2011 MVP season when he became the youngest player (22) to ever win the award, he was ninth overall in PER at 23.5. LeBron James was tops that season at 27.3. And this season, Russell Westbrook is No. 1 at 30.4. Rose has had a dramatic fall.



Knicks coach Jeff Hornacek and point guard Derrick Rose reportedly have a strained relationship. GETTY IMAGES

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Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s):
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ASSOCIATES, P.C.,
2 Summit Court, Suite 301,
Fishkill, New York, 12524,
845.897.1600

Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted herein on or about September 28, 2016, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, located at 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK, IN COURT ROOM #25. On February 3, 2017 at 10:00 am. Premises known as 1110-34 166TH ST, JAMAICA, NY 11433 Block: 10193 Lot: 22 ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the Fourth Ward of the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. As more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale.

Approximate amount of judgment \$462,004.26 plus interest and costs.

INDEX NO. 16744/11
Mitchell L. Kaufman, Esq. Referee

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Across

- 1 Soda fountain treat
- 5 Piece of bread
- 10 Spy -- Hari
- 14 End of a CSA signature (2 wds.)
- 15 Mystiques
- 16 Welsh form of "John"
- 17 Frankfurt's river
- 18 Burro alternative
- 19 Calcium source
- 20 Sci-fi tunnels
- 22 Prepare eggs
- 23 "-- Woman" (Helen Reddy)
- 24 102, to a centurion
- 25 Varmint
- 29 Go faster
- 33 Flood barrier
- 34 Buffalo's lake
- 36 Auction shout
- 37 -- -- nutshell
- 38 Mountain -- (perennial herb)
- 39 Sleazy newspaper
- 40 Cafe handout
- 42 Zwieback
- 43 Couric of "Today"
- 45 Burns' mouse
- 47 First American in space
- 49 "2001" computer
- 50 Half of deux
- 51 Peeved
- 54 Creamy-petaled flowers
- 60 Treasured

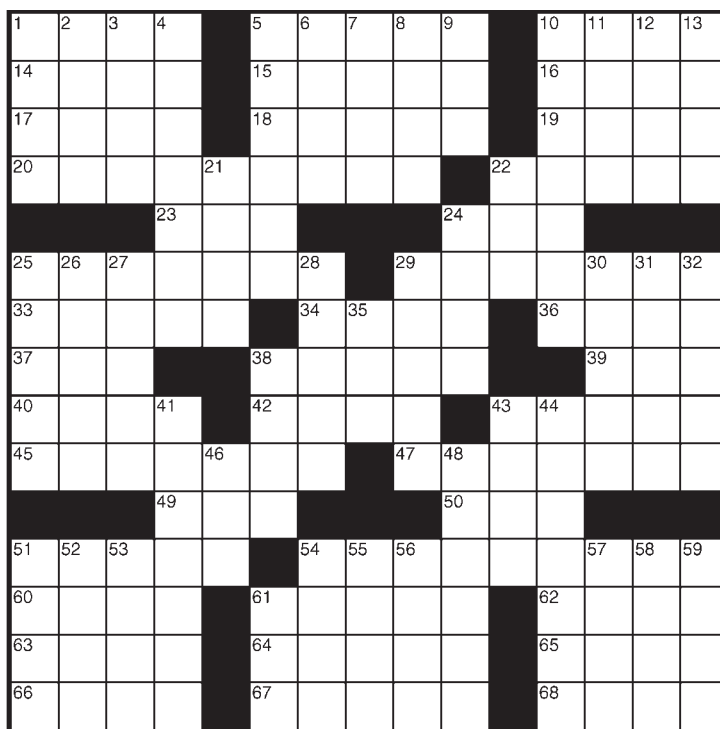
- 61 Drop by
- 62 While away
- 63 La femme
- 64 Hunger for
- 65 Shaq's teammate
- 66 Gave the once-over
- 67 Snagged a dogie
- 68 Zest for life

Down

- 1 Kitty's greeting
- 2 Tough-guy actor -- Ray
- 3 Knowing look
- 4 Home wrecker?
- 5 Seven-veil dancer
- 6 Quiet spell
- 7 Latin hymn word
- 8 Engine parts

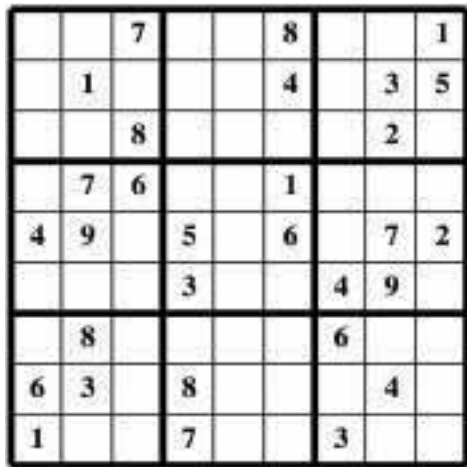
- 9 That senora
- 10 Ghosts often work on them
- 11 Reebok rival
- 12 Chalky mineral
- 13 Nile symbol of enduring life
- 21 Detest
- 22 Indy 500 area
- 24 Poolroom supply
- 25 Shiny
- 26 Ms. Zellweger
- 27 Onetime Trump
- 28 Stage show
- 29 Porkers' complaints
- 30 Major artery
- 31 "-- de Lune"
- 32 Crept
- 35 Home, in the phone book
- 38 Seed covering
- 41 Led down the aisle
- 43 Casino game
- 44 Hulkling
- 46 Smidgen
- 48 Stalked prey
- 51 -- fixe
- 52 Feel sure of
- 53 Leafy vegetable
- 54 Dali colleague
- 55 Cousin of PDQ
- 56 Collapse
- 57 Artifact
- 58 "Sin City" actress
- 59 Observed
- 61 Old TV hookup

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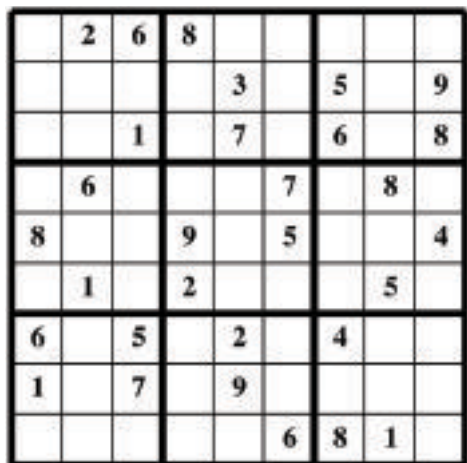


metro.us/sudoku

easy



hard



metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Keep your thoughts to yourself until you have a surefire way of making your point heard and having it received in a beneficial way. Don't react prematurely.



Taurus Sign up for a course or retreat that will get you in touch with your inner self. Someone you encounter will offer you insight into how you can use your skills.



Gemini Look over contracts, and negotiate fairly and with a concrete strategy in mind. Don't neglect your health or your personal life. Make compromises to ensure unity.



Cancer Emotions will surface, leaving you in a precarious position. If you are too outspoken, you will bring about an unwanted altercation. Remain neutral.



Leo Get a second opinion. If you do your due diligence, you will have the foresight to make the best choice. Networking will help clarify what's going on in your industry.



Virgo Be a leader when it comes to networking, defending your beliefs and making a statement that will help shape the outcome of a situation that concerns you.



Libra Go about your business. Work on projects that allow you to use your intuitive intelligence and creative abilities. Don't give in to emotional manipulation.



Scorpio Move money around to ease financial stress, take care of any aches or pains or make physical improvements. A romantic celebration will end your day on a high note.



Sagittarius A positive change to your position, reputation or status will result if you are disciplined and determined to finish what you start. Be responsible.



Capricorn Love, romance and a new and improved lifestyle should be your top priorities. Looking back will help you make good choices moving forward.



Aquarius Establish a financial goal and map out a plan that will help you save for something special. Spend time with your children and make personal physical alterations.



Pisces Personal issues should be addressed and resolved quickly. Shopping, socializing or making plans with children will give you a different perspective on life. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers



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